

VIRGINIA HUD LINES

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E-Briefs from the Richmond Office of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
800/842-2610, ext 3745 Mary Ann Wilson, Director www.hud.gov/local/ric/index.html

STAR RAISING

Taking “a major step towards ensuring that our agencies work together to improve the energy efficiency of new and existing homes,” HUD Secretary Mel Martinez has signed an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy to promote use of EPA *Energy Star* appliances and technologies in public housing, HUD-assisted housing and FHA-insured homes. EPA’s *Energy Star* helps consumers identify energy-efficient appliances and building materials. EPA estimates *Energy Star* appliances can save renters up to 20 percent and owners of new homes up to 30 percent on their utility bills. Last year *Energy Star* saved consumers more than \$5 billion and eliminated pollution equivalent to that produced by 10 million cars.

UNDERWRITER UPDATE

HUD’s Philadelphia Homeownership Center will provide latest news about FHA underwriting, appraisals and the disposition of, HUD-owned properties from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, October 16, 2002 at The Comfort Inn, 3200 West Broad Street, Richmond. Session is free, but space is limited. For reservations, contact [Virginia f. Holman@HUD.GOV](mailto:Virginia.f.Holman@HUD.GOV) or call 800/842-2610, extension 3729.

NORFOLK STATE & HAMPTON UNIVERSITY WIN HUD GRANTS

HUD Deputy Secretary Alphonso Jackson has announced the award of \$10.7 million in community development funds to 22 historically black colleges and universities, including \$301,505 to Hampton University and \$500,000 to Norfolk State University. In collaboration with the City of Norfolk and the Norfolk Redevelopment & Housing Authority, Norfolk State will use its HUD HBCU grant to continue revitalization in the Brambleton, Huntersville, Church Street neighborhoods and public housing complexes near its campus, including the development of at least three single-family homes. Hampton University’s Department of Architecture will use the HBCU funds to start an after-school program at Spratley Middle School on architecture and community development and for a two-month summer day camp on neighborhood identity.

BRIEF BRIEFS

October 1st *Federal Register* publishes final rule on revisions to HOME program. . .VHDA raises sales price and borrower income limits on homebuying programs. . .Application kits for HUD HOPE VI and Operation Lead Elimination Action programs – both due on October 31, 2002 – are on-line at www.hud.gov. . .U.S. Treasury Department awards \$70,000 to Lynchburg Neighborhood Investment Fund, \$109,680 to New Enterprises Fund of Christiansburg and \$250,000 to First Nations Corporation of Fredericksburg under Community Development Financial Institutions program. . .Hampton Roads Housing Consortium taking reservations for Predatory Lending Conference on Thursday, October 10th, at Hampton Roads Planning District in Chesapeake. . .Congressman Rick Boucher announces \$4.9 million in federal funds, including \$700,000 in HUD CDBG funds, to start Crossroads Rural Entrepreneurial Center to spark business development in Galax and Bland, Carroll, Grayson, Smyth and Wythe counties. . .Winners of Mary Tyler McClenahan Visionary Awards to be announced at 5th Community Development Forum sponsored by Richmond Community Development Alliance and Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond on October 16th at Omni in Richmond. . .Governor Warner appoints task force to speed State’s compliance with U.S. Supreme Court’s Olmstead ruling on rights of disabled to live independently. . .Wards Corner Partnership in Norfolk honored by Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference as state’s top neighborhood group. . .Spotsylvania County becomes latest local government to buy “Good Neighbor” home for \$1 from HUD. . .VHDA schedules focus groups on changes to qualified allocation plan for low income housing tax credits on October 8th and 16th with public hearing on November 1st. . .HUD Assistant Secretary declares September 22nd to 28th *State CDBG Week*. . .Bristol Redevelopment & Housing Authority seeking applications for director position. . .Visitors to Living Towns presentation in Woodstock on October 16th are promised they’ll see why Design Matters!. . .HUD Mortgagee Letter 2002-20 lowers Credit Watch threshold effective immediately. . . Federal Home Loan Bank Board of Atlanta okays use of VHDA-originated mortgages in Bank’s First Time Homebuyer program.

HUD OKAYS \$21.6 MILLION PROJECT IN HENRICO

HUD Richmond has completed initial closing to insure a \$21.6 million, 290-unit apartment complex known as Reflections of West Creek in the Short Pump area of Henrico County. 13-building complex will have 98 one-bedroom, 168 two-bedroom and 24 three-bedroom units. The general contractor and managing agent is The Breeden Companies and the lender is Highland Mortgage of Mechanicsville.

MAKING HISTORY

History was made at the Housing Conference in Roanoke with Governor Warner’s appointment of Terri Ceaser, a Hopewell resident, as a member of the Virginia Housing Development Authority’s board of commissioners. The Governor said Ms. Ceaser is the first Section 8 tenant in the nation to be named to the board of a statewide housing authority.

DON’T FORGET

Final comments on the July 29th *Federal Register* proposal to “simplify and improve” HUD regulations implementing the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act are due on October 28 at HUD’s Office of General Counsel, HUD, 451 Seventh Street, Washington, D.C. 20310. Let your views be known, your voice be heard.

